

(b) and (c) A Trust in the name of "Kandla Earthquake Relief Fund" has been set up to provide assistance to the earthquake victims of the Gandhidham Township Area. Kandla Port Trust, other major ports and port users have contributed funds to the Trust in question.

(d) No, Sir.

Declaration of some Inland Waterways as National Waterways

**4050. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:**

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial stringencies are coming in the way of declaring some Inland Waterways as National Waterways and development thereof;

(b) whether Government have assessed the financial requirement and sources therefor;

(c) what steps Government have taken to tap the financial resources; and

(d) the results thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):** (a) Yes, Sir. Financial Stringencies coupled with resource constraints are the major reasons preventing declaration of more waterways as National Waterways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) To enhance Inland Waterways Authority of India's capability to raise funds and to reduce its dependability on budgetary grants, the Govt. has recently approved a policy package which inter-alia envisage empowering Inland Waterways Authority of India to raise bonds to borrow funds from market, to enter into joint ventures with limited equity participation and private participation in BOT projects. The results of the new measures will be visible over a period of 3-4 years.